WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 NOVEMBER 1991

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

HERNANDEZ, SHACKMAN WILL DISCUSS HISTORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY

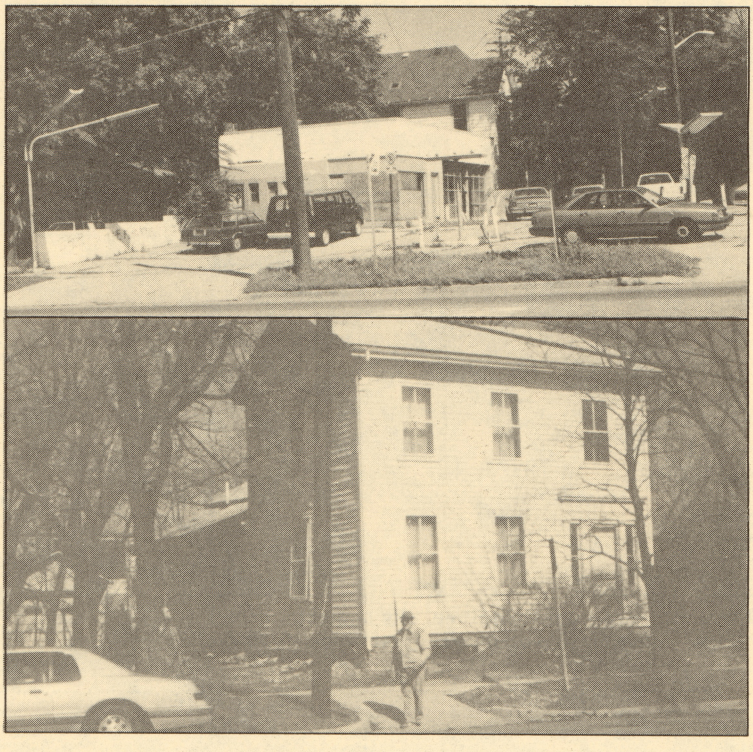
"The Ann Arbor Public Library: From the Wilderness Frontier to the Space Frontier" will be the topic of the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 17, in the Multipurpose room in the basement of the Public Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue.

Ramon Hernandez, director of the library, and Grace Shackman, author of a history of the library, will share the podium.

Hernandez was chairperson and editor of the history research committee sponsored by the Friends of the Library in connection with the recent dedication of the newly enlarged library.

Ms. Shackman, a writer and editor, was hired to write the history using their research and some of her own. Her complete 30-some page manuscript will be available at the library by the new year. An abridged version was given out at the recent dedication.

500 NORTH MAIN: FROM GAS STATION TO MUSEUM



By happy coincidence the City of Ann Arbor owned an abandoned gas station at Beakes and North Main Streets (top left), the University of Michigan owned an 1830's house at 1015 Wall Street (lower left) where more parking was needed and WCHS needed a home.

The gas station was torn down, WCHS moved the house there and is now restoring it for a museum. See inside for more pictures.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SUCCESSFUL OPEN HOUSE AND TIME TO RENEW

The weather was clear and crisp for the Museum on Main Street's open House on Sunday, October 20th. The tri-colored "OPEN" flag was positioned at the corner of North Main Street and Beakes and fluttered its welcome to the 150 guests that came to inspect our soon-to-be historical museum.

Visitors were greeted by Vice-president Don and Jean Smith and board members were stationed at various points of interest in the house: the especially designed basement with its nine-foot high ceiling, the inscription by the Greiner family on the door to the attic, and by the amity button on the newel post of the stairway.

Marguerite Harms tended the gift shop and sold notecards, T-shirts with the museum logo stenciled upon them, newly printed postcards featuring the house moving over Broadway bridge on its way to its new site, and "circles" made by Elizabeth Dusseau of dried, pressed Washtenaw County spring flowers made into lovely, colorful mobiles. Delicious refreshments, several types of cookies and cider, were provided by The Moveable Feast.

FORMER RESIDENT VISITS

We were delighted to have had the opportunity to meet Kenneth Marz, son of the last owner of the house that was moved from 1015 Wall Street. Mr. Marz lived in the house from 1922 to 1948 and told us about the various uses of parts of the house we had wondered about.

Esther Warzynski had worked on locating relatives of the previous owners and had not been successful in learning what had become of the Marz son. Happily he came from Monroe, Michigan, to see what had been done to his boyhood home and plans to return to Ann Arbor soon to participate in a video/oral documentation of his memories of the house.

Another visitor with memories of bygone days in that neighborhood was Mrs. Dama Godfrey Creal, whose grandparents built the home that now houses Washtenaw County Legal Aid at the corner of North Fourth Avenue

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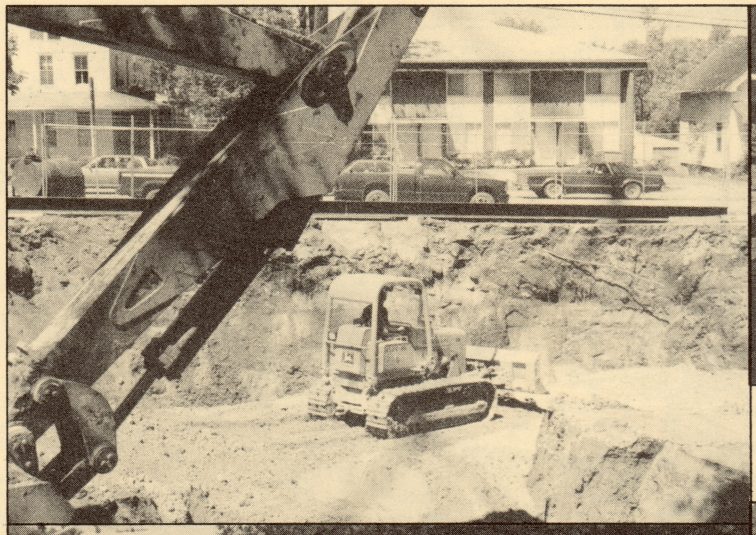
WCHS TO TRIM A TREE AT ENGLANDERS, NEEDS YOUR $ VOTES TO WIN

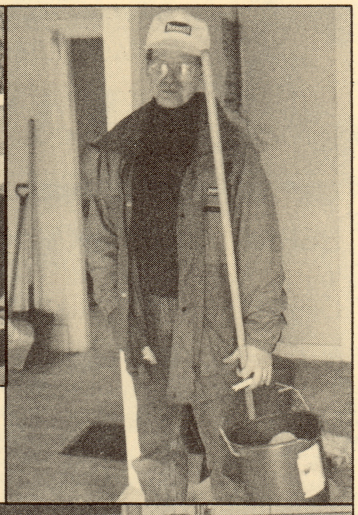
WCHS will trim a Christmas tree at Englander's Furniture Store, 2333 South State Road and members are invited to visit the store between November 29 and December 16 to cast $ votes for our tree. (One dollar equals one vote)

The top vote-getter among trees of non-profit groups will earn $1,000. Second prize is $500 and third $250. Each group gets all its own $ votes.

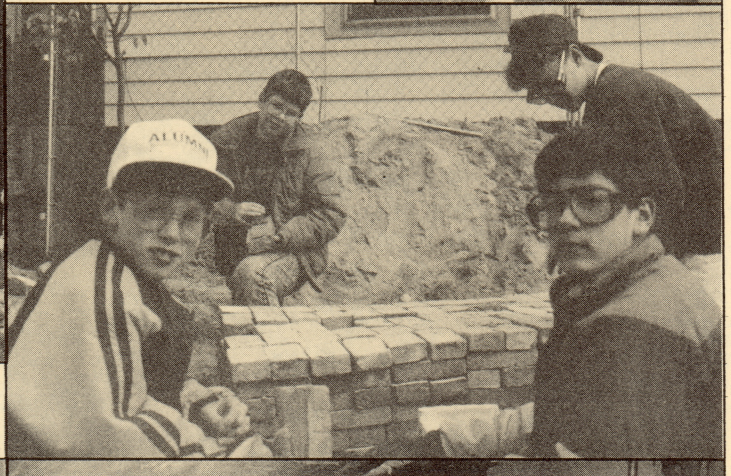
Pat Jackunas and Pat Johnston will again design decorations. Our tree will be trimmed Monday, November 25, at the store.

Envelopes will be available at the store. WCHS votes will go into the museum building fund. Anyone who can't get to the store and wishes to "vote" may call 662-9092 and arrange for a board member to pick up and deliver it to Englanders.

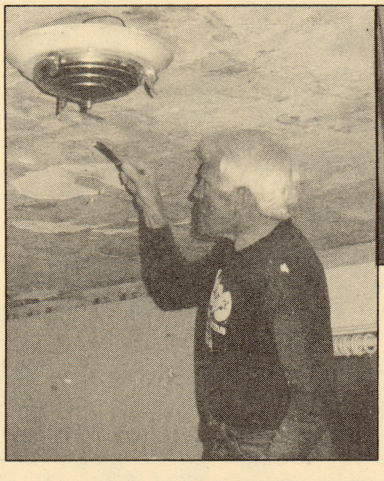


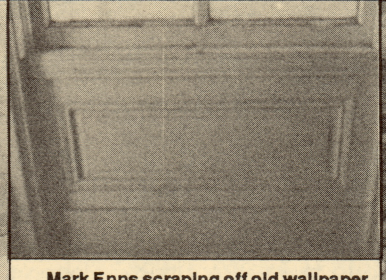


Kevin Busch (above) with Scout helpers (below) cleaned a thousand bricks for re-use on foundation. A weary Gary Cooper, architect, (right) at end of clean-up.



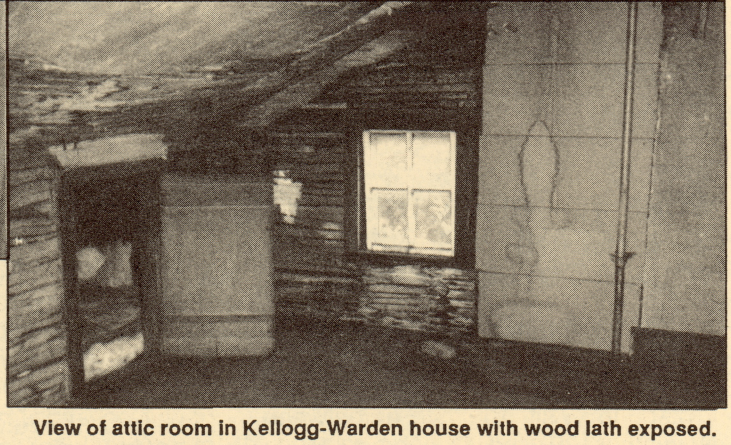
Contaminated soil was removed from Main Street site and extra deep basement excavated (top). House moving up Beakes Street June 10, 1990 (above).





Mark Enns scraping off old wallpaper on clean-up day last March 2 (left) and architectural detail under window (above).

Kevin Busch (upper middle) earned Eagle Scout rank for brick project. Helpers (right middle) are David Fuester, unidentified, Eric Olson (back) and Mike Redles.



View of attic room in Kellogg-Warden house with wood lath exposed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Continued from page 1.

and Kingsley Street and owned the Godfrey Moving Company whose warehouse is now Workbench at Kerrytown.

Mrs. Creal was born in the house at 114 Kingsley in 1903 and lived there, across from our museum, until she married Cecil Creal in 1925. She, too, will take part in making a video/oral record of her memories of the Kerrytown district.

We, in the Washtenaw County Historical Society, are interested in developing a treasury of oral and video-taped histories of members of county families. Thelma Graves has begun this project by video taping the September General Meeting at the University Stadium and we hope to be able to continue taping our meetings for future reference.

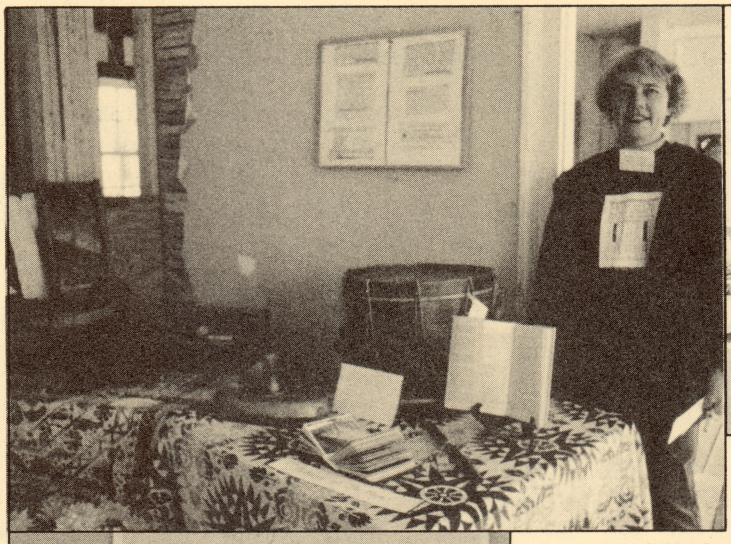
KELLOGGS FROM CAYUGA COUNTY

Susan Wineberg, another board member and local house-historian, was delighted to meet a couple from Cayuga County, New York, who had just relocated from that area to Ypsilanti.

Susan has been corresponding with the historical society in Cayuga County to learn more about the builders of the house at 1015 Wall Street, the Kelloggs, who had come to Ann Arbor in the 1830's from Cayuga County. She was very interested to learn more about that area of New York state from these visitors.

Joe Benkert, our carpenter-in-residence at the Museum, and his helper, Frazer Ohlgren, tidied the premises for the open house and put up the orange plastic fencing around areas that required it.

Continued on page 3.



At open house October 20, is Ellen Prosser (right) browsing at exhibit. Chatting at left are Joe O'Neal, Nancy McKinney (back to camera), museum planning chairman, Karen O'Neal and Don Faber of the *Ann Arbor News*. Ms. Prosser wrote the Michigan sesquincentennial play, *Aliens and Scoundrels* sponsored by WCHS in 1987.

Karen O'Neal, past-president and general museum chairman (above), with open house exhibit October 20. President Pauline Walters and Pam Tabbaa, collection chairman (left), in front of fake fireplace with landscape plan above their heads, donated by Peter Pollack.

Representatives of the Ann Arbor Visitors and Convention Bureau and WCHS met Tuesday, October 29, for the planting of a white flowering crabapple tree at the Museum (To Be) on Main Street. The bureau donated the tree in honor of their retiring board members. Versile Fraleigh of Fraleigh's Lanscape Nursery, Inc., donated the planting job.

HELP
FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .
Continued from page 2.

Our visitors had an opportunity to see the "before" picture of our museum and, we hope, a year from now, they will be able to see the "after" when we will be able to occupy the premises.

Karen O'Neal put together a display of historical objects for the pleasure of the visitors, a Civil War drum, and other items, a precursor of what-is-to-come in the museum.

There was a "pot-of-gold" on the literature table to encourage on-the-spot donations to the building fund and wooden nickel souvenirs for all who signed the guest book.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

This issue of the Washtenaw Impressions is combined with our annual membership renewal mailing. Over the previous several mailings our list was expanded so that the Washtenaw County community could be kept apprised of the progress of the Museum on Main Street.

After this month's mailing, the list will be trimmed to members, contributors, and complimentary copies to schools and other historical societies. We hope that you will have found this newsletter so enjoyable that you will want to join us in supporting the Washtenaw County Historical Society and the Museum on Main Street.

NEXT 'IMPRESSIONS' IN JANUARY

The next Impressions will come out in January, 1992, because WCHS will not have its usual December meeting at Clements Library. In December, 1991, the Clements will not decorate for the holidays because of budget restrictions, but they plan to "go all out" in 1992.

Pauline Walters

These photos were selected from those contributed by Marge Hepburn, Karen O'Neal, Kay Rocco and Susan Wineberg.

Postcards of John Rietz's great photo of the house on Broadway Bridge on its move from Wall Street are now on sale by WCHS.

TRAVELING 'WHAT IS IT?' GAMES ON GO LATELY

WCHS's traveling "What is it?" games have been on the go in recent months.

Arlene Schmid, chairman, has presented them to approximately 450 school children and teachers. Five groups have seen the adult exhibit.

School participants included Allen, three classes; Carpenter, one class; Dicken, four classes; King, four classes; Mitchell, two classes; and a Brownie Girl Scout Troop at Abbot School.

Mrs. Schmid presented the adult exhibit to the Senior Group and the Ruth Circle of Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Richard Dunn presented it to a group at Mercywood Hospital and Patricia Austin to Detroit Edison Seniors. Pauline Walters and Karen O'Neal used it for a Brown Bag Lecture at Kempf House September 18.

The exhibits of small artifacts, set up as humorous "What is It?" games, are available for classes and meetings. Call Mrs. Schmid, 665-8773.

19 PERCENT OF POINTS ALREADY IN FOR VCR

The drive to earn a video cassette recorder (VCR) for WCHS by collecting points from Knapp's Restaurants is off to a flying start. Several of you already have turned over a total of 3,165 points or 19 percent of the goal of 16,509.

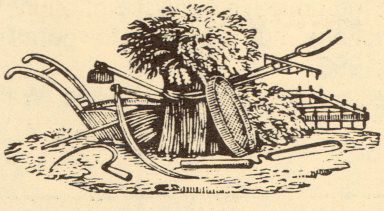
Anyone who eats at any Knapp's Restaurant can get a yellow points slip from the cashier each time with one point for each dollar spent.

Please collect and give or senD to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Information: 663-8826.

LOCAL SCENE LEAPS OUT OF U.S. PUBLICATION

Board member Susan Wineberg was happily surprised when she opened a National Park Service publication, "Preserving Historic Landscapes," last summer and the first thing she saw was a picture from Washtenaw County.

It was a scene at the Dancer farm in the South Lima Rural Historic District. The publication, a bibliography on preservation, is free from: National Park Service Preservation Assistance, P.O. Box 31727, Mailstop 424, Washington D.C. 20013-7127.



HISTORY HAPPENINGS INVOLVE BEADED JACKETS, INDIANS, ANTIQUES, CHRISTMAS, NOAH'S ARK

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Depot, North Main at railroad tracks. New display of clothing featuring turn-of-century beaded jackets, Victorian dresses, 1920s styles and 1940s hats.

Dexter Society: Museum, 3443 Inverness, open 1-3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays till early December. Information about holiday doings: 426-2519

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. November 17 Rita Cook of Grass Lake, a collector of 19th century dolls, will show dolls and talk about doll history. Owners of old dolls may bring theirs for her comments.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street. Hack House was added to the federal National Register of Historic Places last summer.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday, Pittsfield Town Hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: Helen Gilbert of Plymouth, author of Tonquish Tales, Volumes I and II, will talk about the history of local native Indians Thursday, November 21, at the former Congregational Church in Salem, Her slide talk will follow a business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Saline Society: Cyndy Powell of Saline Crossings shop will talk about "Understanding Antiques" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, at the Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road.

The Society will sponsor its fifth annual "Christmas in Saline" antiques show 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, December 1, at Saline Middle School. Admission: $2 donation.

Annual Christmas Walk, 4-8 p.m. Sunday, December 8, with refreshments and entertainment. Start at Firehouse social room, proceed along historic Michigan Avenue to Fosdick-Braun house, a bungalow at 303 East Michigan Avenue which will be decorated for Christmas. Admission: $4.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. second Monday. November 11 meeting at May Mast home, 4580 Farrell Road. Mrs. Mast will present a program, "Music Through the (20th) Century.

December 9 meeting at home of Paul and Liz Kleinschmidt, 5922 Webster Church Road. Paul has made a miniature Noah's Ark and Liz will talk about "The History of Noah's Ark."

Ypsilanti Society: Christmas open house 2-5 p.m. Sunday, December 8, at museum, 220 North Huron, which will be decorated Victorian style. Free. Refreshments. All welcome.

James Porter has been elected president by the board of directors and Michael Miller, vice-president. Appointed secretary was Billie Zolkosky and treasurer, William Ealy.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Address: 537 Riverview Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Mailing: Pauline Walters, 662-9092
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2 P.M. Sunday
November 17, 1991

Ann Arbor
Public Library

343 South Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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